

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 00602 200845 Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 L-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

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R 191130 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8600

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

S E C R E T CONAKRY 0602

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : OVIP PFOR MILI GV SL LI

SUBJECT : GUINEAN/ SIERRA LEONEAN/ LIBERIAN CHIEFS OF
STATE MEETI GT

REF: CONAKRY #588

1. INFORMED SOURCE HAS CONFIRMED THAT STEVENS/ TOLBERT/ TOURE MEETING WAS HELD AT REQUEST OF STEVENS PRIMARILY TO SEEK ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FROM HIS COLLEAGUES IN EFFORT MAINTAIN POWER IN SIERRA LEONE.
2. STEVENS REQUEST FOR ADVICE LED TO ONE- HOUR LECTURE AND SCOLDING FROM SEKOU TOURE FOR MISTAKES MADE IN RUNNING SIERRA LEONE. WHEN IT DEVELOPED THAT MUCH OF SEKOU TOURE' S INFORMATION WAS BASED ON REPORTS HE HAD RECEIVED FROM STEVENS' OPPONENTS, STEVENS REMARKED THAT IF SEKOU TOURE WAS GOING TO BELIEVE EVERYTHING SAID BY OTHERS IT WAS HARDLY WORTH MEETING. SEKOU TOURE ALSO GAVE LENGTHY ADVICE ON STEPS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ORGANIZE POPULATION AND STRENGTHEN PARTY, BUT ALL AGREED THESE MEASURES TOO FAR- REACHING AND TIME- CONSUMING TO BE PUT INTO EFFECT IN TIME TO ASSURE DESIRED ELECTION RESULTS. TOLBERT PLAYED MODERATING ROLE THROUGHOUT PROCEEDINGS.

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PAGE 02 CONAKR 00602 200845 Z

3. FROM CONVERSATION WITH ANOTHER SOURCE IT CLEAR THAT SUBJECT OF ELIMINATION OF OPPOSITION PARTY WAS ALSO DISCUSSED WITH GUINEANS NATURALLY AGREEING WITH STEVENS ON EVILS OF MULTIPLE PARTY SYSTEM.

4. IN RESPONSE TO STEVENS' WARNING OF POSSIBLE OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE AND CONSEQUENCES THIS COULD HAVE, SEKOU TOURE PROMISED THAT GUINEAN TROOPS WOULD HELP MAINTAIN STABILITY IN SIERRA LEONE AND PREVENT VIOLENCE FROM BECOMING WIDE- SPREAD. HE DECLINED, HOWEVER, TO COMMIT HIMSELF TO USING GUINEAN TROOPS TO HELP MAINTAIN STEVENS IN POWER. PRESIDENT TOLBERT GAVE ASSURANCES THAT OPPOSITION ELEMENTS WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED UNDERTAKE POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN LIBERIA AND ALSO PROMISED TRY TO APPREHEND ONE FORMER SIERRA LEONE POLICE OFFICER WHOM STEVENS IDENTIFIED AS BEING OPPOSITION LEADER.

5. IT IS BELIEVED THAT ON BALANCE STEVENS GOT MUCH LESS THAN HE HAD HOPED FOR OUT OF MEETING. HE WAS DESCRIBED AS EXTREMELY WORRIED MAN AT START OF MEETING AND EVEN MORE SO AT ITS CONCLUSION.
TODMAN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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